

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer. This listing of the claims replaces any prior listings of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating melanoma comprising:
 - a) administering to a host a composition ~~containing~~ comprising a nucleic acid encoding a melanoma-associated tumor antigen such that the host develops an immune response against the tumor antigen; and,
 - b) subsequently administering at least 10 MU/m²/day interferon alpha 2b (IFN- α 2b) to the host;
whereby the combination of steps a) and b) provides an enhanced T cell response in the host relative to that which occurs following step a) alone.
- 2-3. Cancelled.
4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within a plasmid or a viral vector.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of poxvirus, adenovirus, retrovirus, herpesvirus, and adeno-associated virus.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of vaccinia, NYVAC, MVA, avipox, canarypox, ALVAC, ALVAC(2), fowlpox, and TROVAC.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of NYVAC, ALVAC, and ALVAC(2).
- 8-10. Cancelled.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MART-1/Melan A, gp75/TRP-1, tyrosinase, NY-ESO-1, melanoma proteoglycan, a MAGE antigen, a BAGE antigen, a GAGE antigen, ~~a RAGE antigen~~, a fragments thereof, and a derivative thereof.
12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MAGE-1, MAGE-2,

MAGE-3, MAGE-4, MAGE-6, MAGE-12, MAGE-51, GAGE-1, and GAGE-2, and RAGE-1.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is gp100.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a poxviral vector encoding the melanoma-associated tumor antigen.
15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 14 wherein poxviral vector is an ALVAC vector.
- 16-17. Cancelled
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step a) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day at least two times per week for at least two weeks.
19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step a) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day at least three times per week for at least two weeks.
20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step a) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day at least four times per week for at least two weeks.
21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step a) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m²/day at least five times per week for at least two weeks.
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step a) IFN α 2b is administered at at least 20 MU/m²/day at least five times per week for at least four weeks.
23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the melanoma tumor antigen is a modified gp100.
24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2).

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTW (SEQ ID NO.: 3).
26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2) and the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTW (SEQ ID NO.: 3).
27. Cancelled.
28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 1, further comprising step c) wherein the amount of IFN α 2b is administered ~~the reduced dosage~~ is reduced by 33% of the original dosage amount of IFN α 2b administered in b).
29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the amount of IFN α 2b is administered in step c) is at least 6 MU/m²/day.
30. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the ALVAC vector is ALVAC(2).
31. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
32. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
33. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
34. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.